



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

31 August 2006

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: August 28, 2006

Conditions Report

A harmful algal bloom has been identified from southern Pinellas to northern Collier County. Patchy high impacts are possible from southern Pinellas to northern Charlotte County through Saturday, with patchy low impacts possible Sunday and Monday. Patchy moderate impacts are possible for southern Charlotte and northern Collier Counties through Saturday with patchy very low impacts possible Sunday and Monday. Patchy low impacts are possible for Lee County through Saturday, with patchy very low impacts possible Sunday and Monday. Patchy high impacts possible for bay regions of southern Manatee County through Monday.

Analysis

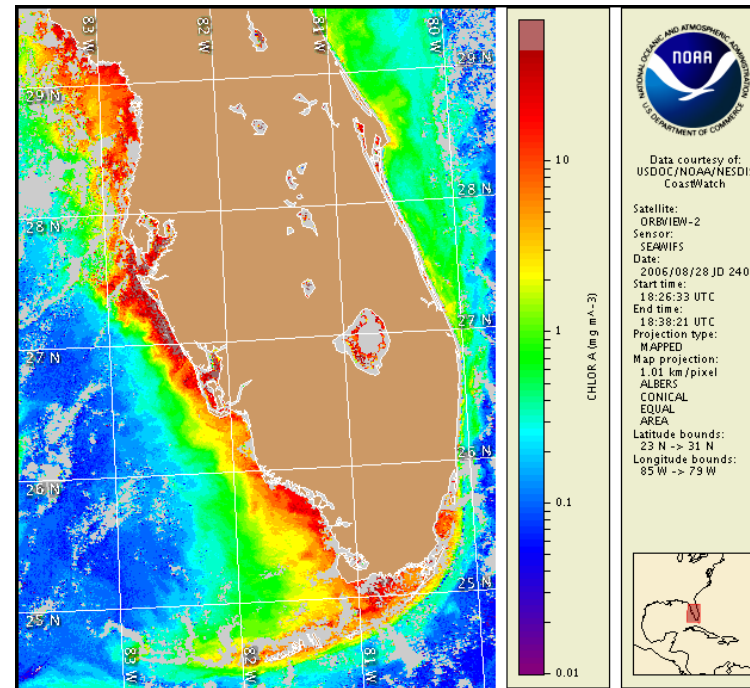
The ongoing harmful algal bloom is now confirmed in southern Pinellas County, and persists from Manatee to northern Collier County. Imagery has been cloudy over the past few days due to Tropical Storm Ernesto (bulletin imagery is from 8/28), however breaks in the clouds indicate continued elevations in chlorophyll levels outside the mouth of Tampa Bay and west of Anna Maria Island. A wind transport model indicates little net transport of the bloom since the last bulletin, although it may have expanded 15-20 km south within the past 24 hours. In Pinellas and Manatee Counties, low concentrations of *Karenia brevis* were identified at Mullet Key, with present concentrations on the north side of Skyway Fishing Pier, high concentrations of *K. brevis* were identified 1 NM west of Bunces Pass, and inside Anna Maria Island, at Cortez, and medium concentrations have been identified 5 NM offshore Bunces Pass and North Channel, at the mouth of Tampa Bay (FWRI, 8/29). Medium to high concentrations of *K. brevis* have also been identified 3-10 NM west of Longboat Key, in southern Manatee County (FWRI, 8/25). Several reports of discolored water have been received from Bunces Pass to Venice. The northern portion of this bloom remains mixed. Reports of discolored water are possible north of the confirmed harmful bloom extent due to the presence of nonharmful

Please note the following restrictions on all SeaWiFS imagery derived from CoastWatch.

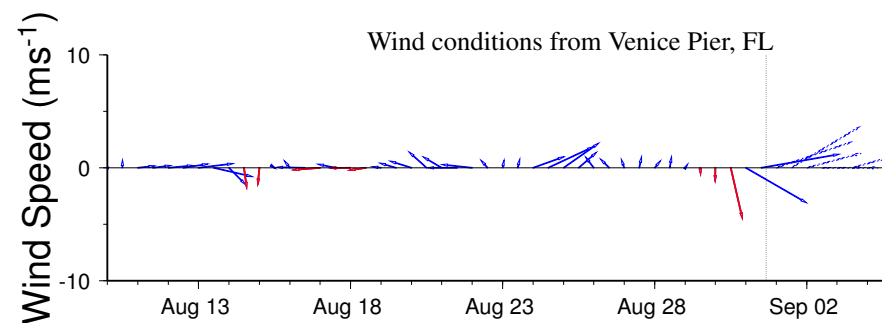
1. Data are restricted to civil marine applications only; i.e. federal, state, and local government use/distribution is permitted.
2. Image products may be published in newspapers. Any other publishing arrangements must receive OrbImage approval via the CoastWatch Program.

algae. Onshore winds over the next few days may increase coastal impacts. Slight northern transport is possible through Sunday.

-Allen, Fisher

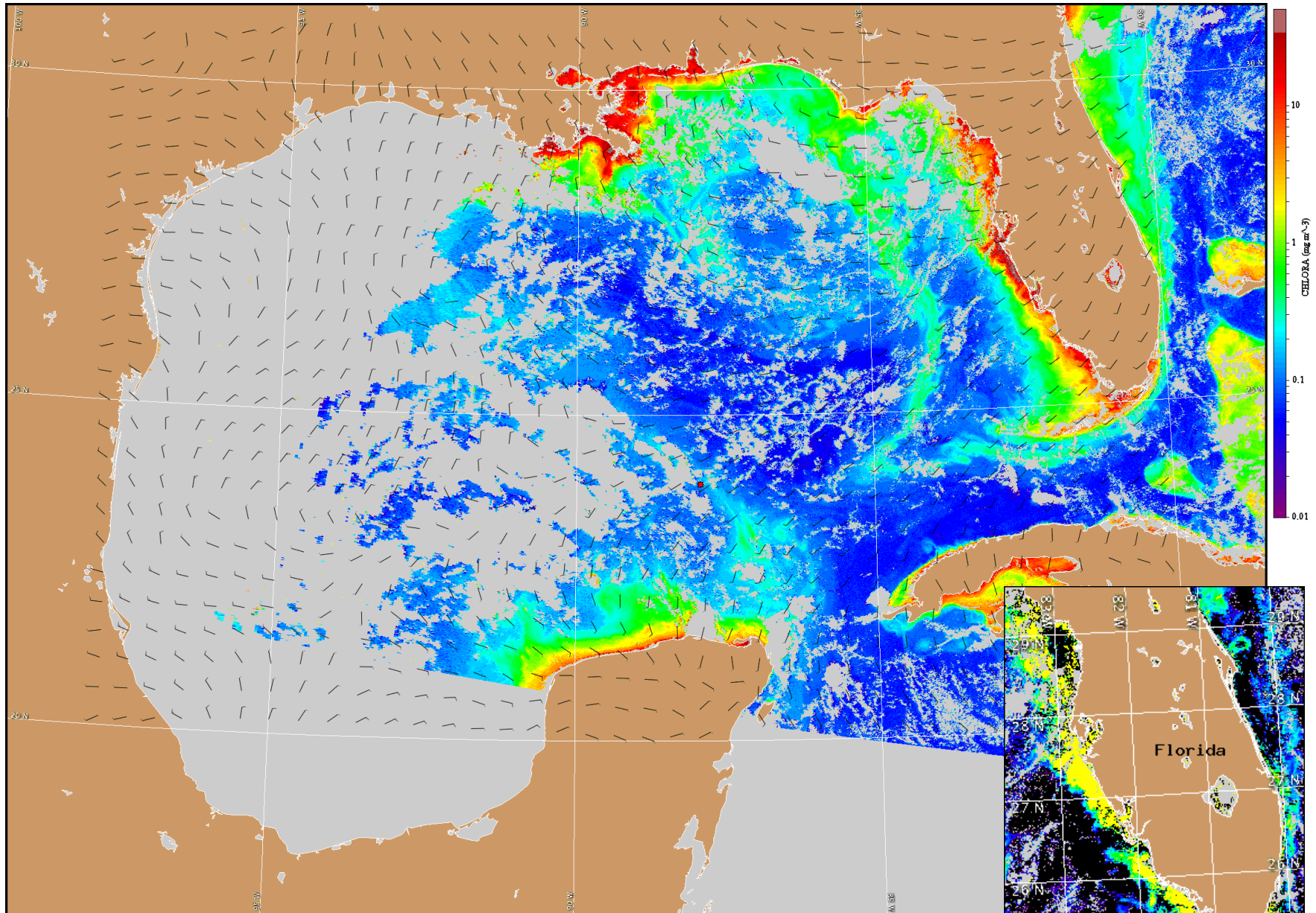


Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from August 21-25 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).

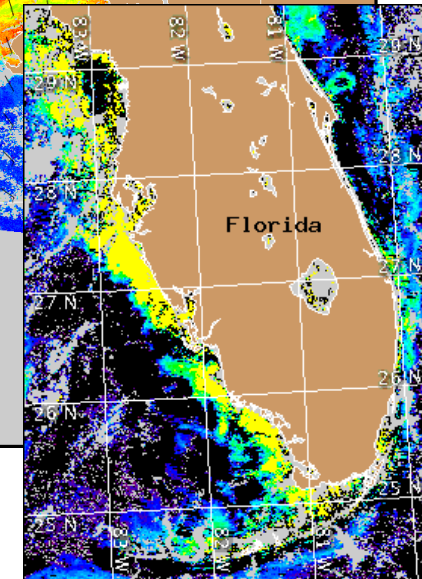


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

Westerly winds today at 10-15 knots (5-8 m/s), shifting to the southwest by tonight. Southwesterly winds Friday (10-15 knots, 5-8 m/s) and Saturday (10 knots, 5 m/s), shifting to the east by Sunday and Monday (5 knots, 3 m/s).



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for September 1, 2006 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from August 21-25 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).



Verified HAB areas shown in red. Other bloom areas shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).

